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**New Film From Jim Wahlberg Illuminates the Importance of Faith and Family on the Journey to Sobriety**

*Collaboration between OSV Films and Wahl St. Productions exposes the deep impacts of substance abuse*

Approximately [1 in 12 Americans](#) struggle with a substance use disorder, according to the latest data. Each year in the United States, an estimated [47,500 people](#) die from opioid overdoses, tragic casualties in an ongoing public health emergency that has impacted millions of lives. The far-reaching effects of addiction are ripping through communities across the country, and in his new film “What About The Kids?” writer and director Jim Wahlberg gives us a poignant and ultimately hopeful look into the true cost of this epidemic.

“Addiction is a monster that’s ravaging families and communities across the country, and this project tells that story on an intimate, emotional level that I hope motivates us all to reach out in support to those who are struggling,” Wahlberg said. “I’ve faced this battle in my own life, and if it wasn’t for the church community and my family walking alongside me, I’d still be locked in that war, or worse.”

The short film, a collaboration of Wahl St. Productions and OSV Films, follows 8-year-old Chloe – played by Layla Scalisi – as she and her family navigate the grief of her mother’s death of an overdose and her father’s ongoing battle with drug abuse. A raw and emotional portrait informed by his own struggle to reach sobriety, which is detailed in his memoir [“The Big Hustle,”](#) Wahlberg’s film showcases the powerful roles of family and faith in breaking the cycle of addiction.

“As a community of faith, we have a calling to care for those that need our support most,” said Jason Shanks, president of OSV Films. “It’s a privilege to work alongside Jim and the Wahl St. Productions team to tell such an important and timely story that we pray will be a catalyst for healing in families and a call to action to communities around the nation.

“What About The Kids?” was released on September 8 at a virtual premiere event, hosted by Chris Stefanick (host of “Real Life Catholic”) with guests from the film, Patti D’Arbanville (Grandma) and Layla Scalisi (Chloe). The film was previewed along with a short documentary directed by Wahlberg that shares the story of a real family impacted by the opioid crisis. In addition to the film, OSV Institute has created companion materials to facilitate discussions across the country on the film’s themes. For more information on hosting a screening and to view the film, visit [whataboutthekidsfilm.com](http://whataboutthekidsfilm.com).

**About Wahl St. Productions**

Founded by Jim Wahlberg, Wahl St. Productions is a full-service production company that independently produces films, television and web content; but also works with clients in both the corporate and non-profit sectors to make their video and electronic media production dreams a reality.

**About OSV Institute**

In 1915, Fr. John Francis Noll began the OSV Institute to extend the reach of Our Sunday Visitor in service and support of Catholic organizations. With over \$80 million returned to Catholic organizations to date, the OSV Institute continues to serve the Church by supporting and encouraging innovative and effective Church-related programs and activities. Three areas of special interest for funding are Re-Captivating Millennials, Hispanic Experience and Supporting Parents. In 2017 the Institute expanded its reach to provide support for new innovation and to serve as an incubator for new efforts supporting the Catholic Church.